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EXAMINER

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: “a money sort” should be replaced with “the money sort”. Appropriate correction is required.
2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: “a cassette” should be replaced with “the cassette”. Appropriate correction is required.
3. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: “a money sort” should be replaced with “the money sort”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6, 10, 13-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Modi, U.S. Patent Number: 6,241,244 in view of Awatsu et al., US Patent Number: 5,777,304.

3. As per claim 1, Modi teaches an automated teller machine for performing a cash transaction, comprising:

a currency deposit/withdraw port for depositing/withdrawing a currency (abstract; column 1, lines 18-19; column 2, lines 9-16);

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a discriminating unit for discriminating a currency, (abstract and column 1, lines 18-19; column 2, lines 18-53);

a plurality of cassettes each thereof detachably mounted with respect to said automated teller machine, for storing thereinto a currency, with the currency being transferred between a cassette and the currency deposit/withdrawal port via the discriminating units (abstract; column 1, lines 18-19; column 3, lines 55-67; column 4, lines 30-45),

a control unit for storing thereinto operation information used to operate said automated teller machine, and for performing a control operation based upon said stored operation information, said stored operation information contains, wherein said control unit acquires information from are set which to said automated teller machine, and judges as to whether said is located within a range of said (column 3, lines 16-67; column 4-5; column 9, lines 43-64).

Modi does not teach: said discriminating unit storing discriminatable range information which includes a range of country sort information indicating country sorts of paper currency discriminatable in said discriminating unit and a range of money sort indicating money sorts discriminatable in said discriminating unit; each of said cassettes storing cassette information which includes a cassette sort indicating a type of the cassette, country sort information indicating a country of paper currency received in the cassette and money sort indicating a money sort of the paper currency received in said cassette; country sort information indicating an area of paper currency which said automated teller machine should handle and cassette structural information indicating structure of a cassette for paper currency arranged with said automated teller machine, said stored operation information being set prior to operation of said automated teller machine, and said cassette structural information including cassette sort of a cassette for

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paper currency to be arranged with said automated teller machine, country sort information of paper currency to be received in the cassette and money sort indicating a money sort of the paper currency to be received in said cassette said cassette cassettes, said control unit also acquires said discriminatable range information from said discriminating unit which is set to said automated teller machine, acquired discriminatable range information and said cassette information acquired from said discriminating unit and said cassettes stored operation information.

Awatsu et al. teaches: said discriminating unit storing discriminatable range information which includes a range of country sort information indicating country sorts of paper currency discriminatable in said discriminating unit and a range of money sort indicating money sorts discriminatable in said discriminating unit (see column 14, lines 5-17; column 15, lines 1-52; abstract); each of said cassettes storing cassette information which includes a cassette sort indicating a type of the cassette, country sort information indicating a country of paper currency received in the cassette and money sort indicating a money sort of the paper currency received in said cassette (see column 14, lines 5-17; column 9, line 61-column 10, line 40; column 15, lines 1-52; abstract; Figs. 25-28); country sort information indicating an area of paper currency which said automated teller machine should handle and cassette structural information indicating structure of a cassette for paper currency arranged with said automated teller machine, said stored operation information being set prior to operation of said automated teller machine, and said cassette structural information including cassette sort of a cassette for paper currency to be arranged with said automated teller machine, country sort information of paper currency to be received in the cassette and money sort indicating a money sort of the paper currency to be received in said cassette said cassette cassettes, said control unit also acquires said

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discriminatable range information from said discriminating unit which is set to said automated teller machine, acquired discriminatable range information and said cassette information acquired from said discriminating unit and said cassettes stored operation information (see column 14, lines 5-17; column 9, line 61-column 10, line 40; column 15, lines 1-52; column 17, lines 44-59; abstract; Figs. 25-28).

Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious at the time of the invention to have included said discriminating unit storing discriminatable range information which includes a range of country sort information indicating country sorts of paper currency discriminatable in said discriminating unit and a range of money sort indicating money sorts discriminatable in said discriminating unit; each of said cassettes storing cassette information which includes a cassette sort indicating a type of the cassette, country sort information indicating a country of paper currency received in the cassette and money sort indicating a money sort of the paper currency received in said cassette; country sort information indicating an area of paper currency which said automated teller machine should handle and cassette structural information indicating structure of a cassette for paper currency arranged with said automated teller machine, said stored operation information being set prior to operation of said automated teller machine, and said cassette structural information including cassette sort of a cassette for paper currency to be arranged with said automated teller machine, country sort information of paper currency to be received in the cassette and money sort indicating a money sort of the paper currency to be received in said cassette said cassette cassettes, said control unit also acquires said discriminatable range information from said discriminating unit which is set to said automated teller machine, acquired discriminatable range information and said cassette information

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acquired from said discriminating unit and said cassettes stored operation information features to the automated teller machine of Modi, because Awatsu et al. teaches that adding the feature help to reduce manual operation or eliminate error (see abstract of Awatsu et al.).

4. As per claim 2, Modi and Awatsu et al. teach an automated teller machine as claimed in claim 1 described above. Modi further teaches said control unit sets, or changes said operation information stored in said control unit (column 34, lines 40-50; column 9, lines 43-64).

5. As per claim 3, Modi and Awatsu et al. teach an automated teller machine as claimed in claim 2 described above. Modi further teaches said automated teller machine is comprised of:

a staff member panel for display thereon, which is operated by a staff (Fig. 1; column 9 lines 1-19; column 18, lines 55-66); and said control unit sets, or changes said operation information by using said staff member panel (Fig. 1; column 9 lines 1-19; column 18, lines 55-66).

6. As per claim 4, Modi and Awatsu et al. teach an automated teller machine as claimed in claim 1 described above. Modi further teaches wherein:

said control unit acquires cassette information from said cassette which is set to said automated teller machine and judges as to whether or not said acquired cassette information is suitable for said stored operation information (column 3, lines 16-67; column 4-5; column 9, lines 43-64).

7. As per claim 5, Modi and Awatsu et al. teach an automated teller machine as claimed in claim 4 described above. Modi further teaches said control unit continuously performs the operation of said automated teller machine in the case that the judgment result is suitable for said operation information (column 3, lines 16-67; column 4-5; column 9, lines 43-64).

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8. As per claim 6, Modi and Official Notice teach an automated teller machine as claimed in claim 4 described above. Modi further teaches wherein: in the case that the judgment result is not suitable for said operation information, said control unit notifies such a fact that said judgment result is not suitable for said operation information (column 3, lines 16-67; column 4-5; column 9, lines 43-64).

9. As per claim 10, Modi and Awatsu et al. teach an automated teller machine as claimed in claim 1 described above. Modi teaches wherein:

said stored operation information contains sort information of said cassette, which indicates as to whether or not said cassette exclusively stores thereinto a currency deposited from said currency deposit/withdraw port, whether or not said cassette exclusively stores thereinto a currency withdrawn from said currency deposit/withdraw port, or whether or not said cassette stores thereinto currencies which are deposited and withdrawn from said currency deposit/withdraw port information (column 3, lines 16-67; column 4-5; column 9, lines 43-64); and

said control unit acquires such information corresponding to said sort information of said cassette, which is contained in said stored operation information, from into said automated teller machine; and also judges as to whether or not the operation is properly carried out based upon said acquired information (column 3, lines 16-67; column 4-5; column 9, lines 43-64).

10. As per claim 13, Modi and Awatsu et al. teach an automated teller machine as claimed in claim 1 described above. Modi further teaches wherein: said control unit continuously monitors, or monitors in a constant time interval the information related to said cassette set to said automated teller machine (columns 3-5).

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11. As per claim 14, claim 14 is equivalent to claim 1. Please refer to claim 1 rejection above.

12. As per claim 15, Modi and Awatsu et al. teach an automated teller machine as claimed in claim 14 described above. Modi teaches either said main body control unit or said control unit of the currency deposit/withdraw mechanism continuously monitors, or monitors in a constant time interval mounting/dismounting of said cassettes (columns 3-5); which are set to said currency deposit/withdraw mechanism (abstract; column 1, lines 18-19; column 2, lines 9-16; columns 3-5)

13. As per claim 16, Modi and Awatsu et al. teach an automated teller machine as claimed in claim 15 described above. Modi further teaches wherein: in the case that either said main body control unit or said control unit of the currency deposit/withdraw mechanism monitors to sense that said cassettes are again reset, said main body control unit again transmitted from said control unit, and also judges as to whether or not said acquired cassette information is suitable for said stored operation information of the automated teller machine (columns 3-5).

14. As per claim 18, Modi and Awatsu et al. teach an automated teller machine as claimed in claim 1 described above. Modi further teaches wherein: in the case that said main body control unit judges that said acquired money sort information is suitable for said operation information, said main body control unit executes the operation of said automated teller machine based upon said operation information (columns 1-5); and in the case that said main body control unit judges that said acquired money sort information is not suitable for said operation information, said main body control unit notifies such a fact that said acquired memory sort information is not suitable for said operation information (column 4).

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 10, 13-16 and 18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

16. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARISSA LIU whose telephone number is (571)270-1370. The examiner can normally be reached on IFP.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. L./

Examiner, Art Unit 3694

/James P Trammell/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3694